

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-05 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /132 W

----- 046187

R 121535Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3943

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN BQTRR

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG JWQQI

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: NO CONFIDENCE DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT

REF: CAPE TOWN 0419

3GIN SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER VORSTER ENDED WEEK-LONG
PARLIAMENTARY NO CONFIDENCE DEBATE AUGUST 9 WITH SPEECH
WHICH, AS EXPECTED, GAVE NO INDICATION THAT GOVERNMENT CON-
TEMPLATING MODIFICATIONS OF RACE POLICIES. SUBSTANCE OF PM'S
ADDRESS CONVEYED ABSENCE OF SENSE OF CRISIS WHICH OPPOSITION
ARGUES IS IMPERILING SA'S FUTURE. VORSTER WILL MEET WITH
DELEGATION OF COLORED REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL BUT LITTLE IS
EXPECTED TO DEVELOP FROM MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. PM VORSTER TOOK TO FLOOR OF HOUSE AFTERNOON AUGUST 9 TO
DEFEND HIS GOVERNMENT IN NO CONFIDENCE DEBATE. LION'S SHARE
OF LENGTHY SPEECH DEVOTED TO COUNTERATTACKING OPPOSITION
CRITICISMS BY EMPHASIZING DIVISION OF OPPOSITION CAMP,

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NOTABLY WITHIN UNITED PARTY (UP).

2. SUBSTANCE AND TONE OF VORSTER'S REMARKS DESIGNED TO DEFLATE OPPOSITION'S ADMONITIONS THAT DOMESTIC DISCORD, NOTABLY CRC DEVELOPMENTS, HAD PROVEN UNWORKABILITY OF NATIONALIST POLICY OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT AT VERY TIME DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA HAD RADICALLY CHANGED INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. REDUCING LEVEL OF DEBATE TO THE "WOULD YOU WANT YOUR SISTER TO MARRY ONE" LEVEL, PM ARGUED THAT VARIOUS OPPOSITION PROPOSALS TO CHANGE UAG POLICIES WOULD BRING ABOUT INEVITABLE WHITE-BLACK SOCIAL EQUALITY FOR SA. "SHALL WE OPEN THE SEA POINT (FASHIONABLE CAPE TOWN AREA) SWIMMING POOL TO ALL RACES?" HE ASKED SARCASTICALLY. VORSTER CONCENTRATED HEAVIEST ATTACK ON UP FOR EARLIER REMARKS BY MP MIKE MITCHELL, WHO HAD ARGUED THAT ALLWHITE PARLIAMENT WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO GIVE WAY IN UP'S FEDERATED SYSTEM TO A MULTI-RACIAL BODY. ATTACK PROMPTED UP LEADER SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF TO DEFEND MITCHELL WHILE AT SAME TIME ASSURING ELECTORATE THAT END OF ALL-WHITE PARLIAMENT IS DECISION TO BE MADE ONLY BY WHITES.

3. VORSTER LARGELY IGNORED SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED BY OPPOSITION DURING COURSE OF DEBATE, E.G., CHANGING FACE OF PORTUGUESE AFRICA, BLACK LABOR UNREST, AND COLORED REJECTION OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. HE DID ACKNOWLEDGE, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD MEET WITH LEADERS OF COLORED REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL'S (CRCBL NOW DOMINANT OPPOSITION HEADED BY LABOR PARTY'S SONNY LEON. VORSTER MADE SOME NOISES ABOUT DEVELOPING CRC INTO A STATUTORY CONSULTATIVE BODY AS DISTINCT FROM PURELY ADVISORY NATURE IT HAS AT PRESENT. HOWEVER, HE MADE CLEAR THAT HE DOES NOT ENVISION SHARING OF POLITICAL POWER WITH COLOREDS OR BLACKS. CRC LEADERS HAVE ALREADY TOLD PRESS THEY EXPECT NOTHING POSITIVE TO EMERGE FROM MEETING WITH PM.

4. COMMENT: ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS, WHICH IS AS INTENT ON PROVING THAT INTERNAL DISCORD EXISTS WITHIN NATIONAL PARTY AS NATIONALISTS ARE OF DEMONSTRATING UP DIVISIONS, HAS MADE MUCH IN ITS COMMENTARY ON DEBATE ABOUT DIFFERENCE IN TONE OF SPEECHES BY OTHER NATIONALIST LEADERS SUCH AS DR. CONNIE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MULDER AND DR. ANDRIES TREURNICHT (HARD-LINERS) AND DR. PIET KOORNHOF (RELATIVELY MORE LIBERAL). THOUGH DIFFERENCES OF OPINION UNDOUBTEDLY EXIST WITHIN NP, EXAMINATION OF SUBTLE NUANCES IN VARIOUS SPEECHES DOES NOT RPT NOT ALTER FACT THAT ON MAJOR POSITIONS THERE IS VIRTUALLY COMPLETE IDENTITY OF THOUGHT AMONG NATS. NO CONFIDENCE DEBATE GAVE NO HINT OF MAJOR FISSURES IN NATIONAL PARTY. NOR DID IT PROVIDE ANY INDICATION THAT PM VORSTER AND NATIONALISTS, BUOYED BY

APRIL'U ELECTORAL VICTORY, ARE PREPARED TO MAKE ANY SIGNI-
FICANT CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT LINE ON RACE RELATIONS.
HURD

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